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SECURITY INFORMATION

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WESTERN EUROPE

1. French plan to expose East German noncooperation before UN: Foreign Minister Schuman has instructed the French delegation to the United Nations to bring before the Seventh General Assembly the failure of the East German Government to cooperate with the UN Commission on Germany. The French representative in New York said that his instructions were agreeable to placing the item on the supplementary agenda list, and he hoped for further consultation with American and British representatives on the matter. (S S/S New York 151, 15 Aug 52)

Comment: When the Commission was set up last December, East German representatives protested at the UN meeting on the ground that German problems were outside UN jurisdiction. Entrance to East Germany was therefore never granted the Commission, which has now been dissolved. The East Germans may again ask to present their case, if their failure to cooperate is discussed in the General Assembly.

2. West Berlin coal situation may improve: Despite current efforts to double the West Berlin coal stockpile in preparation for a possible blockade, the stockpiles may by next spring be only slightly larger than now if the Rothensee canal lock remains closed and Soviet authorities refuse to grant compensating transport facilities to the city.

Prospects for increasing the coal stocks over the winter months may improve, however, as a result of the new interzonal trade agreement which provides for the delivery of nearly 650,000 tons of brown coal from East Germany. Deliveries should begin next week if the East German Government intends to fulfil the agreement.

Reports from West German sources now support the Soviet contention that the canal lock actually needed repairs, and

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that its closure was not merely a harassment measure. The lock is being worked on at this time, and Soviet authorities may intend to reopen it in the next few weeks. (Factual data from: S Berlin 289, 18 Aug 52; C Berlin 273, 14 Aug 52; TS Bonn 614, 11 Aug 52)

3. French official believes reply to Soviet note on Austria will be difficult: The Austrian desk officer of the French Foreign Office has informed the American Ambassador in Paris that he "presumes" some reply will have to be made to the Soviet rejection of an abbreviated treaty for Austria. He anticipates difficulty in dealing with Soviet references to the Potsdam agreement and to the Austrian Government's assertion in its 31 July memorandum that it could "hardly ratify" the old draft treaty.

The French official also finds it "curious" that the Russians, while referring to such matters as denazification and demilitarization, failed to mention the long-disputed article on Austrian debts to the USSR -- the "split-pea" article. (C S/S Paris 1029, 18 Aug 52)

Comment: The Soviet failure again to raise the question of Austrian debts is of doubtful significance, since reference to other East-West differences on the treaty has made it clear that a resumption of negotiations on the treaty would probably not be productive. The Soviet note was calculated to put Soviet stalling in the best possible light and to shift blame to the West, to the United States in particular, for the continued occupation of Austria.

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